

§ 3251.13

(6) A description and diagram of the blowout prevention equipment you will use during each phase of drilling;

(7) The expected depth and thickness of fresh water zones;

(8) Anticipated lost circulation zones;

(9) Anticipated temperature gradient in the area;

(10) Well site layout and design;

(11) Existing and planned access roads or ancillary facilities; and

(12) Source of drill pad and road building material and water supply.

(d) Show evidence of bond coverage (See 43 CFR 3251.15);

(e) Estimate how much surface disturbance your exploration may cause;

(f) Describe the proposed measures you will take to protect the environment and other resources;

(g) Describe methods to reclaim the surface; and

(h) Include all other information we may require.

§ 3251.13 What action will BLM take on my permit?

(a) When we receive your exploration permit, we will make sure it is complete and signed, and review it for compliance with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

(b) If the proposed operations are located on lands described under 43 CFR 3250.10(a)(2), we will consult with the federal surface management agency before we approve your permit.

(c) We will check your exploration permit for technical adequacy and we may require additional procedures.

(d) We will notify you if we need more information to process your permit. We will suspend the review of your permit until we receive the information.

(e) After our review, we will notify you whether we approved or denied your permit, as well as any conditions we require for conducting operations.

§ 3251.14 Once I have a permit, how can I change my exploration operations?

Send BLM a complete and signed sundry notice, form 3260-3, which fully describes the requested changes. Do not proceed with the change until you receive written approval from BLM.

43 CFR Ch. II (10-1-06 Edition)

§ 3251.15 Do I need a bond for conducting exploration operations?

Yes, do not start any exploration operations on BLM-managed lands until we approve your bond. You may meet the requirement for an exploration bond in two ways.

(a) If you have an existing nationwide or statewide oil and gas exploration bond, provide a rider to include geothermal resources exploration operations, in an amount we have specified.

(b) If you must file a new bond, the minimum amounts are:

(1) \$5,000 for a single operation;

(2) \$25,000 for all of your operations within a state;

(3) \$50,000 for all of your operations nationwide.

(c) See 43 CFR subparts 3214 and 3215 for additional details on bonding procedures.

§ 3251.16 When will BLM release my bond?

We will release your bond after you request it and we determine that you have:

(a) Plugged and abandoned all wells;

(b) Reclaimed the land; and

(c) Complied with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

Subpart 3252—Conducting Exploration Operations

§ 3252.10 What operational standards apply to my exploration operations?

You must:

(a) Keep exploration operations under control at all times;

(b) Conduct training during your operation which ensures your personnel are capable of performing emergency procedures quickly and effectively;

(c) Use properly maintained equipment; and

(d) Use operational practices which allow for quick and effective emergency response.

§ 3252.11 What environmental requirements must I meet when conducting exploration operations?

(a) You must conduct your exploration operations to:

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3253.11

(1) Protect the quality of surface and subsurface waters, air, and other natural resources, including wildlife, soil, vegetation, and natural history;

(2) Protect the quality of cultural, scenic and recreational resources;

(3) Accommodate other land uses, as we deem necessary; and

(4) Protect people and wildlife from unacceptable noise levels.

(b) You must remove or, with our permission, properly store all equipment and materials not in use.

(c) You must provide and use pits, tanks and sumps of adequate capacity. They must be designed to retain all materials and fluids resulting from drilling temperature gradient wells or other operations, unless we have specified otherwise in writing. When no longer needed, you must properly abandon pits and sumps in accordance with your permit.

(d) We may require you to submit a contingency plan describing procedures to protect public health, safety, property and the environment.

§ 3252.12 How deep may I drill a temperature gradient well?

You may drill a temperature gradient well to any depth we approve in your exploration permit or sundry notice. In all cases, you may not flow test the well or perform injection tests of the well unless you follow the procedures for geothermal drilling operations in 43 CFR subparts 3260 through 3267. BLM may modify your permitted depth at any time before or during drilling, if we determine the bottom hole temperature or other information indicates that drilling to the original permitted depth could directly encounter the geothermal resource or create risks to public health, safety, property, the environment or other resources.

§ 3252.13 How long may I collect information from my temperature gradient well?

You may collect information from your temperature gradient well for as long as we approve.

§ 3252.14 How must I complete a temperature gradient well?

Complete temperature gradient wells in a way that allows for proper abandon-

ment and prevents interzonal migration of fluids. Cap all tubing when not in use.

§ 3252.15 When must I abandon a temperature gradient well?

When you no longer need it, or when we require you to.

§ 3252.16 How must I abandon a temperature gradient well?

(a) Before abandoning your well, submit a complete and signed sundry notice describing how you plan to abandon wells and reclaim the surface. Do not begin abandoning wells or reclaiming the surface until we approve your sundry notice.

(b) You must plug and abandon your well to permanently prevent interzonal migration of fluids and migration of fluids to the surface. You must reclaim your well location to our satisfaction.

Subpart 3253—Reports: Exploration Operations

§ 3253.10 Must I share the data I collect through exploration operations with BLM?

(a) For exploration operations on your geothermal lease, you must submit all data you obtain as a result of the operations with a signed notice of completion of exploration operations form under 43 CFR 3253.11, unless we approve a later submission.

(b) For exploration operations on unleased lands or on leased lands where you are not the lessee or unit operator, you do not need to submit data. However, if you want your exploration operations to count toward your diligent exploration expenditure requirement (43 CFR 3210.13), or if you are making significant expenditures to extend your lease (43 CFR 3208.14), you must send BLM the resulting data under the rules of those sections.

§ 3253.11 Must I notify BLM when I have completed my exploration operations?

Yes. Send us a complete and signed notice of completion of exploration operations form, describing the exploration operations, well history, completion and abandonment procedures, or site reclamation measures. You